

Today a similar effort is underway with respect to climate change. The science is clear, with a vast majority of climate scientists agreeing that the climate is warming and that continuing to emit carbon into the atmosphere at current levels will bring significant and mostly detrimental change to our environment. Moreover, even though the evidence that climate change is already taking place and is overwhelming and increasingly obvious, there is widespread denial that climate change is even happening or that it would be possible to help combat it. But the things that need to be done to address climate change, such as taxing carbon emissions, can be done gradually, predictably, and in a way that helps the economy grow and puts people to work.

So why is there so much resistance?

The resistance in America is caused by a well-funded campaign to create doubt about obvious scientific facts. The fossil fuel industry, in particular, has been paying its own scientists to go on talk shows, to publish in their own denial journals, and generally to create doubt whenever possible about climate change, suggesting that it would be better to wait for conclusive evidence before doing anything. But to wait for conclusive evidence is to wait for catastrophe.

While Republicans in Washington are trying to reduce or eliminate funding for climate change research, there also seems to be an effort by Republicans to reduce science funding across the board. This will result in fewer scientific advances in the U.S., which will likely cause us to fall behind our competitors. But this is part of a larger trend that denies there are real experts. Science denial has become a pop culture. This is dangerous because modern society is built upon the things that science got right.

I see the war on science in this country as shortsighted and very damaging to our economy. We need to change the tone and direction toward a positive process that acknowledges and supports the role science has played and will continue to play for our country. That means working with legislators and getting more scientists and other concerned citizens involved in the political process to ensure that our Nation can continue to benefit from new scientific discoveries and innovation and which will help create the jobs we need to continue to be a great economic power.

FAREWELL TO THE HONORABLE JOE PITTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in my hand is a book, "Congress: The Chester County Line" written by Wayne C. Woodward. A portion of the foreword reads as follows: "From

the very beginning of our great Nation and the first American Congress, Chester Countians have served their southeast Pennsylvania constituents in the United States House of Representatives. Not all have been nationally known leaders or internationally renowned legislators, but, by and large, Congressmen from Chester County have played a major role in American history." That was written by Richard T. Schulze, member of the United States House of Representatives, serving from 1975 to 1993.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Congressman JOE PITTS, who has served Chester County, Lancaster County, and Berks County with tremendous distinction for the past two decades. Whether it was his legislative focus and advocacy involving religious liberty, life, health care, land conservation, or focusing on those issues at the most local level, JOE PITTS' legacy and achievements as a legislator will prove lasting in the history of Chester County and this Congress.

My predecessor, Jim Gerlach, serving in the neighboring Sixth Congressional District, commented: "I had the good fortune of working with JOE from my first years as a State legislator in the PA house all the way through my last year in Congress. During those 24 years, JOE PITTS was a steady and committed voice for conservative principles and policies that are the bedrock of our economy and society. He cared deeply about his constituents and country, and he always voted for what he believed was best for both. In short, he was a principled leader who worked hard every day to do the right thing, and his leadership will be missed."

JOE PITTS' predecessor in Congress, occupying what is commonly referred to as "the Pennsylvania Dutch seat," Congressman Bob Walker, commented: "JOE PITTS has distinguished himself and the district he represents with his congressional service. He has become an acknowledged leader in healthcare policy, and his human rights work has won worldwide claim. I have been proud to call him my congressman for the past 20 years, and wish JOE and Ginny the very best in the years ahead."

This book, "Congress: The Chester County Line," was written in 1992. There will be a day when a second book about the history of Congress and Chester County will be written. We don't know who will write it, but we do know there will be a chapter on the service of Jim Gerlach and on the service of Bob Walker; and there will also be a very long chapter, rich in content, on the contributions that JOE PITTS has played in American history for the betterment of this country, for the betterment of Chester County, Berks County, and Lancaster County.

Congressman PITTS, I wish you the very best as you retire, and a long and healthy retirement to you and your family. God bless you.

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FAREWELL TO THE HONORABLE BOB DOLD

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, when I came to Congress, as I suspect when most new Members come to Congress, you tend to look around for those Members who you can take a little something from to improve yourself and to see what they do and also what they don't do.

Congressman BOB DOLD is finishing his second term. I would like Mr. DOLD to know that I have taken a great deal from him. I find him to be a very honorable man and a friend who has served with purpose, a positive attitude, and is partisan-free. He is a great example of how to serve in this body effectively, with distinction, and with a great attitude.

I wish Congressman DOLD the very best in all his future endeavors.

FAREWELL TO THE HONORABLE RICHARD HANNA

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, RICHARD HANNA, serving New York's 22nd Congressional District, is retiring. I want to commend Congressman HANNA on his thoughtfulness, independence, and courage of convictions. I find him to be a great example of how to serve in this body honorably, and I wish him and his family the very best in his retirement.

FAREWELL TO THE HONORABLE MIKE
FITZPATRICK

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Congressman MIKE FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania's Eighth Congressional District is retiring. His brother, Brian, has big shoes to fill to serve in MIKE's place.

When I came to Congress, one thing that you would always hear in political circles is that MIKE FITZPATRICK, while serving in Congress, never stopped being a Bucks County Commissioner. What that really means is, while he came down here to focus on Washington and issues important to this country, he never stopped spending time in Bucks County, serving the district with distinction.

I wish MIKE FITZPATRICK the very best in retirement and thank him for his mentorship during my first year in Congress.

CONGRATULATING STAFF SERGEANT AARON TOBLER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Staff Sergeant Aaron Tobler, an Albany native and La Salle Institute of Troy graduate who was recently selected for the Outstanding Airman of the Year award by the United States Air Force.

The Air Force provides this recognition to top enlisted Airmen for their unique individual achievements in leadership, job performance, significant self-improvement, and community involvement.

Sergeant Tobler is a fine example of the best the capital region, the Air